

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04552 250312Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4609
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4552

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR PINT SREF CB IN VN
SUBJECT: INDIAN DIPLOMATIC COMMENTS ON VIETNAM

REF: NEW DELHI 1834

SUMMARY: AN INDIAN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNED TO HANOI CALLED
ON CONGENOFF TO REVIEW RECENT EVENTS IN VIETNAM. DURING
THE TALK, HE TOUCHED ON CURRENT VIETNAMESE-INDIAN
RELATIONS, AN APPARENT FUTHER DETERIORATION OF SRV-
CAMBODIAN RELATIONS, AND BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS IN
HANOI. END SUMMARY.

1. AN INDIAN DIPLOMATIC RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC REPORTING IN HANOI VISITED CONGEOFF ON APRIL
21. HE NOTED THAT HE ATTENDED THE NEW DELHI TALKS
WITH PHAN HIEN IN FEBRUARY AND HAD MET LEONARD WOODCOCK
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WHEN THE US COMMISSION VISITED HANOI IN MARCH.
HE OBSERVED THAT US-SRV NORMALIZATION WAS
PROGRESSING WELL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE
YS WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN HANOI SOON. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT VIETNAM WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE
INDEPENDENT OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES (READ CHINA AND
RUSSIA) AND SAID THE VIETNAMESE WERE VERY

PRAGMATIC AND WOULD ACCEPT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FROM ANYONE, IN ANY FORM AND THROUGH ANY CHANNEL.

2. INDIAN-SRV RELATIONS: THE INDIAN SAID THAT
SRV FOREIGN MINISTER RECENTLY VISITED NEW DELHI
FOR THE NAC MEETING AND TOOK THE OCCASION TO MEET
WITH INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ASSURED HIM
OF THE CONTINUED FREINDLY POLICY OF INDIA TOWARD
VIETNAM UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE INDIAN
DIPLOMATIC EXPECTED TO ACCOMPANY AN SRV ECONOMIC
DELEGATION (REPORTED REFTTEL) LATER THIS MONTH TO INDIA
WHERE THEY WOULD STUDY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THERE IS ALSO A
PROPOSAL FOR PREMIER PHAN VON DONG TO VISIT INDIA
THIS FALL BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET.

3. SRV-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS: THE INDIAN REPORTED
THAT VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS SEEMED TO HAVE
WORSENERD IN RECENT MONTHS AND THERE WERE RUMORS IN
HANOI OF PAVN TROOPS BEING SENT TO THE VIETNAMESE-
CAMBODIAN BORDER AREA. WHEN ASKED ABOUT A REPORT
THAT VIETNAMESE WERE RETURNING TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES
WITH NO RELATIVES IN VIETNAM TO CAMBODIA WHERE THEY
WERE DOUSED WITH GASOLINE AND BURNED, HE REPLIED
THAT HE HAD HEARD THIS RUMOR IN HANOI AND, GIVEN
CAMBODIA'S RECORD, COULD NOT DISCARD IT. HE
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD CONCEDED A
DISPUTED ISLAND TO THE CAMBODIAN BUT, DESPITE
THIS CONCESSION, RELATIONS WERE STILL POOR AND THE
VIETNAMESE WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED
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OVER GROWING CHINESE INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA. HE
ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH INDIA HAD RECOGNIZED THE NEW
CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT INDIA
WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH
VERY SOON ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENTATION IN ALL INDICHINESE COUNTRIES.

4. HANOI BLACK MARKET: COMMENTING ON LIFE IN
HANOI, THE INDIAN ADMITTED THERE WAS A BLACK MARKET
BOTH IN GOODS AND IN MONEY. HE SAID THE US DOLLAR
WITH AN OFFICIAL RATE OF ABOUT ONE TO THREE NORTHERN
DONG, SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET FOR 13 OR 14 ADDING
THAT MOST EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE PAID IN DONG IN
HANOI AND PREFER THE DOLLARS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE
SRV AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE BLACK MARKET SALE
OF GOODS BY SOME DIPLOMATS IN HANOI BUT GENERALLY
TURNED A BLIND EYE ALTHOUGH THEY DID ARREST TWO
LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS RECENTLY.
CROSS

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